

## **Greater Manchester Services for Children Review**

### **Why are we reviewing Services for Children across Greater Manchester?**

In summer 2015 Greater Manchester's ten local councils agreed to work with central government to undertake a fundamental review of the way children's services are delivered. The agreement to carry out this review was part of our ongoing discussions around devolving additional powers and responsibilities to Greater Manchester from Westminster.

Greater Manchester was chosen to carry out this work due to our successful track record of innovation and reform of public services and our history of collaboration across the ten local authority areas.

We know that there are areas of outstanding services in Greater Manchester and learning from and rolling out best practice is an important part of this review. We also know however that there is a variation in the outcomes that our services deliver across different areas. Our ambition is that all areas are performing to the same levels as the best.

The review was established to investigate how best to improve outcomes for children at a time of significant pressure on council budgets. We recognise that we need to do things in a radically different way in future if we are to improve services while reducing our budgets.

The review aims is to develop a number of proposals for reform and to highlight any barriers nationally or locally that stop their delivery.

### **What will the review look at?**

The ambition for the review is to identify and learn from best practice and develop new approaches that will improve outcomes for children across Greater Manchester.

It aims to do this by:

- Supporting families, parents and carers to be confident and resilient
- Developing new models of early intervention, prevention and provision
- Reducing, appropriately, the number of looked after children, children in need and those with child protection plans by making the best use of our shared resources and expertise across Greater Manchester
- Making the most of the money we have to deliver services by developing new integrated commissioning arrangements

### **What's involved and who is leading the work?**

We have identified seven themes that the review will focus on. These have been identified based on where we know outcomes need to be improved,

where we know there are challenges in the system, and where we could get maximum benefit from investigating different approaches.

Each theme area is being led by the Directors of Children's Services from the different areas of Greater Manchester. Progress is being reported to Jim Taylor acting as lead Chief Executive and Charlotte Ramsden as lead Director of Children's Services.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Lead</b>
Youth Offending	Trafford (John Pearce)
Integrated Health Commissioning and delivery for children	Tameside (Steph Butterworth) Stockport (Chris McLoughlin)
Education	Bury (Mark Carriline)
Complex Dependency and Early Help	Oldham (Maggie Kufeldt) Wigan (James Winterbottom)
Quality assurance functions in statutory childrens' services	Stockport (Andrew Webb)
Complex Safeguarding	Rochdale (Gail Hopper)
Looked after Children	Bolton (John Daly)

The review will involve the development of a range of different options for example this may include investment in specific interventions or looking at how services might be delivered at different spatial levels. It will involve reviewing current data and engage professionals with insight in these priority themes.

### **What are the timescales for the review?**

Detailed scoping papers have been created and each theme area is now developing a business case.

These business cases will be reviewed by Chief Executives and will be subject to approval by the Department of Education, HM Treasury and individual local authorities in March with an aim to move to implementation from April 2016.

### **How is the review being funded?**

Central Government has provided innovation funding to support the completion of the review. The review will also look at ways that Greater Manchester can maximise the use of its current funding and any future government funding to support the implementation of the proposals.

### **What does this review mean for me and my job?**

No decisions have been taken to plan for changes to services for children at this stage so there are no implications for jobs. The review is intended to develop a set of proposals for best practice and improvement across our services for children.

As these proposals are developed and agreed we will let you know if there is likely to be any impact on your role. We are committed to keeping you and the Trade Unions informed and involved throughout this review.

### **How can I get involved and where can I get more information?**

As part of the process to develop their business cases each theme area is holding a number of workshops to bring together colleagues from across Greater Manchester, partner organisations and national agencies and bodies with specific knowledge on that theme. It is anticipated that there will be more workshop sessions as the review develops into its next phase.

We will ensure that regular communications of the programme are circulated via your management teams and that there are plenty of opportunities for individuals to have their say.

If you would like to share your ideas please contact the appropriate theme lead.

If you have any questions or thoughts about the programme more generally please contact Jacob Botham [j.botham1@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:j.botham1@manchester.gov.uk)